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Northern Lambda Nord

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Northern Lambda Nord Communiqué

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October 1985

DEAR NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD

This is a short thank you letter. It should be longer - there's a lot to say thanks for!

NLN is the first organization I've ever joined officially and I'm glad. I enjoy the *Communiqué* newsletter and love your library.

Thank you also for the chance to meet people to talk to, and dance with who don't expect anything except that you be yourself. For the first time in my life I've been accepted as just another human instead of "the odd one" in the group.

So, at 41 (yes, that's my age), I finally discovered where home is. Even if I can't get up there very often, "New Sweden" will always represent home. A lot of the welcome feeling is because of you.

I've met a lot of people there (too many to name) that I'd like to thank as well - for friendliness, tolerance, and respect (rare in our society). So, I'd like you to put this in the newsletter if you have space.

Thanks and love, Jude Vivers,
of Houlton).

Plymouth, New Hampshire 03264 (formerly

LETTER FROM THE WEST

Having lived in Fort Kent for the past ten years and now returning to San Francisco for a year's sabbatical, I've noticed how life in Ess Eff has radically changed, but in some ways remains the same. The panhandlers in Bezerkley now ask for a "spare twenty", but that's inflation for you.

More seriously, I see the most extreme changes in the gay community. With AIDS comes a public reaction, often of a political nature. The closing of the bathhouses is a perfect example. It appears that all the tubs were (and are) closed, not so much for health reasons, but rather because of a political trade-off. The City said, "Look, the Democratic Convention is coming to town. If you guys close the baths, we'll make sizeable sums of money available for AIDS research." We did and they did.

Like in Maine, politics and the gay/lesbian movement are closely related and make strange bedfellows. At UC Berkeley, for example, there is a Multicultural Gay and Lesbian Alliance receiving generous student senate funds. They employ several people and have a membership of 300, with monthly meetings and a dance each semester. They also sponsor university-credit courses and work hand-in-hand with the Berkeley Free Clinic. Ironically, the University's Board of Regents is arch-conservative, having been primarily appointed by ex-governor Ronald Reagan.

But the tragic, unifying element to many of these activities is obvious: AIDS. Our grief is deepened every Wednesday when the *Bay Area Reporter* is published. They now include an obituary column that reads like casualty lists during a war. This week, seven deaths were reported. Whenever possible, it includes a picture, often of young, strapping men: George Manierre, 37; Joe Robertson, 44; Lee Schroyer, 37; Kerry Caldwell, 27. A surprising gesture of sympathy was expressed to the gay community by the Catholic Church. Last week, the Archbishop of San Francisco celebrated a rite which goes back to the Middle Ages, during the time of the plague: a mass of blessing for those afflicted by an epidemic. Preceding the blessing, the Archbishop said some sensitive words of comfort.

But the eternal glories of the City by the Bay remain! cala lilies and lemon trees, bridges and sailboats, ethnic neighborhoods and Victorian houses. These are the happy images that brighten our night-thoughts. /s/ Walter

SYMPOSIUM XIII REPORT by Dick

I met with two members of the Office of Conferences and Special Programs at the University of Maine/Presque Isle (UMPI) Wednesday, September 25. They wanted to talk about Northern Lambda Nord's plans to use the UMPI campus for the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XIII over next May's Memorial Day weekend. All I could think of was that they wanted to tell us that NLN couldn't use the facilities. But, oh how I was pleasantly surprised! Both Dr. James and Bob Whitcomb (the latter is in charge of the Conferences Office, the former his boss), both men were very helpful and wanted to do anything they could to make Symposium XIII a success. Dr. James had been in touch with the Portland and Orono campuses to find out what this Symposium was all about. He said that, despite some reservations by some people at UMPI, he felt that we had requested use of the campus and we were to be treated as any other group holding a conference there. The UMPI mandate includes serving the community, and we are part of that community.

So, planning meetings will continue as scheduled (the first Sunday of October, November, and December, so far). Committees are established and the chairs need help doing the organizing. Planning meetings are open to the general membership, so feel free to attend. The following is a list of committees and chairs, so you can think about what you'd like to work on. (All Lambs are expected to help with some aspect of the Symposium).

- Budget - Randy and Phil
- Housing and Registration - Roger T.
- Food - Elaine
- Workshops/speakers - Randy
- Security - Ros
- Child Care - chair needed
- Carpooling - Dick
- Publicity and advertising - Dick
- "Culture"/art exhibits - Sue
- Dances and the music - Cliff
- Entertainment and films - Randy
- Bilingual services - Roger T.
- Signing for hearing-impaired - Hank and Cliff
- Work-exchange - Sue

AIDS

AIDS REPORTED IN NEW BRUNSWICK

New Brunswick has reported its first case of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS. According to a CBC Radio report September 27, the "official" case is a resident of "Region 3" - that part of Victoria, Carleton, and York Counties from Perth-Andover to Fredericton - the region served by NLN.

The CBC reporter visited the bar in Fredericton, *Dance Trax*, and interviewed patrons there. Janice Jackson of the CBC noted that it was a "typical club". There was an atmosphere of "friendliness. It wasn't a sleazy bar like many straight bars." She noted that there was not much body contact; people held hands, danced, talked. Most of the people she spoke with reported that they had stable relationships, which was contrary to what most people think about gay people. One person remarked, "Sex is not a recreational thing with gays, at least not in Fredericton." Some people expressed fear of AIDS and even said they were becoming celibate. The majority, however, were being cautious, but did not see a drastic change in their lifestyles.

USE OF 'POPPERS' LINKED TO AIDS

The inhalation of isobutyl nitrite, or "poppers" has been shown to further impair the body's ability to fight off infectious disease in individuals. Sold as a "room odorizer", it is widely used among gays as a "recreational drug".

Researchers at the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine have found evidence confirming the long-held suspicion that use of poppers increases the risks associated with AIDS. Specific immune-system damage was linked with the use of isobutyl nitrite. "We believe our findings establish that inhaling isobutyl nitrite should be considered dangerous to homosexuals and others at high risk for developing AIDS," noted a spokesperson for the National Jewish Center.

The Metro Area Committee on AIDS in Halifax, MacAIDS, will sponsor a day-long workshop for health and social service professionals Saturday, October 26 at the Technical University of Nova Scotia. The eight-hour programme will include sessions on disease description and transmission, hospitalization and the return of people with AIDS to the community after treatment, sexual counselling for people with AIDS, their partners, and other members of high-risk groups, and a panel discussion on legal and social needs and problems. A registration fee has been set at \$10. The event has been timed to coincide with a national conference of the Canadian Public Health Association. For more information, contact MacAIDS, POB 1013, Station M, Halifax, B3J 2X1, or call 902/429-2808.

—AIDS SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN AUGUSTA

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance is sponsoring an "AIDS Summit" Sunday, October 20 in Jewett Hall Auditorium, University of Maine/Augusta. The day-long meeting is billed as "a comprehensive discussion on AIDS and our future." The meeting is geared to "make plans for educating both the public and gays, and for participating in government activities. And, we must protect the civil rights of gays and persons with AIDS."

Two sessions are planned. From 11am-2pm, the meeting is restricted to gaymen and lesbians. At 2pm, representatives of human rights organizations, service agencies, and health providers are invited to join the discussion. "The spread of AIDS and its equally devastating backlash require our immediate attention." Participation by as many people as possible is requested.



PROTECT YOURSELF! - Practice Safe and Sensible Sex!

SAFE

Massage
Hugging
Mutual masturbation
Social kissing (dry)
Body-to-body rubbing
(frottage)
Light S&M (no bruising
or bleeding)

POSSIBLY SAFE

French kissing (wet)
Anal sex with a condom
Sucking - stop before climax
Watersports - external only
RISK INCREASES WITH MULTIPLE
PARTNERS!!!

UNSAFE - Rimming, Fisting, Blood contact, Sharing sex toys, Semen or urine in the mouth, Anal sex without a condom. RISK INCREASES WITH MULTIPLE PARTNERS!!!

AIDS symptoms may include: Persistent fevers or nights sweats - Unexplained weight loss - Enlarged, hardened, or painful lymph nodes - Recently appearing new growths on top of or beneath the skin or on the mucous membranes (inside mouth, anus, nasal passages, or underneath eyelids) - Dry cough not related to cold or flu - Persistent diarrhea - Thrush, a whitish, thick, persistent coating on tongue or in throat - Easy bruisability or unexplained bleeding. CHECK WITH THE LAMBDA LIBRARY FOR LITERATURE ON AIDS AND STAYING HEALTHY.

—DAY-LONG AIDS CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND

"The AIDS Epidemic - Issues for the community" is the subject of a day-long conference Wednesday, October 23, 9am-4pm, at the Sonesta Hotel in Portland. It is co-sponsored by Metro Medicare, suppliers of Homecare Equipment and Supplies, and by the Community Health Services, a visiting nurse and homecare service. Workshops include: (1) a medical overview, presented by Michael C. Bach, M.D., an infectious disease specialist at Maine Medical Center and an Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Vermont/Burlington. (2) Health Care in the Community: Barriers to Care, presented by Kristen Kreamer, RN, MSN. She is an Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist and an adjunct faculty member of the University of Southern Maine School of Nursing. (3) Social Aspects: Transition from Hospital to Home, presented by Monnie Callan, MSW, a Certified Social Worker who has been involved exclusively with AIDS patients and family counseling for the past two years at Montefiore Medical Center, New York City. (4) An AIDS patient from Boston will speak about his disease and the associated problems. (5) Community Support

Groups - A member of the Gay Health Crisis Team in New York City will present experiences with the epidemic in that city. (6) Panel discussion - All speakers at the seminar will be joined by a member of the Maine Gay Health Action Committee AIDS Hotline, and a social worker from Maine Medical Center.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 16, and there is a limit of 200 registrants. Fee is \$25, with checks made payable to AIDS Seminar. Send registrations to AIDS Seminar, Community Health Services, POB 8250, Portland 04104. For more information, contact Susan Belanger, 775-7231.

GATHERINGS

MAINE NOW STATE CONFERENCE

The Maine Chapter of the National Organization for Women, NOW, will hold their annual statewide conference Saturday, November 2, in the Memorial Union of the University of Maine/Orono. The schedule is:

- 9am-6pm - Registration, workshops, keynote, lunch, films, fun, sales, exhibits
- 7pm-1am - Dinner, dance, lotsa fun at the Unitarian Church, Bangor.

All proceeds from the NOW lunch, dinner, and the dance benefit the Maine NOW PAC and cost is separate from the Conference fee (all for under \$12). Overnight accommodations are free, but arrangements must be made ahead. There is free childcare, and all facilities are wheelchair accessible.

Workshop topics include: Who We Are NOW; Reproductive Rights in Reagan's America; Straight Talk about Lesbians; Women Running for Public Office; Sports Fitness; Feminist Consciousness Raising; Porn Again - All the Rage; Self-Defense; All the Years - Ending Ageism; In Our Own Image - The Media; Rich Woman Poor Woman; Women's Screams Are Not Silent - Response to "The Silent Scream"; Colorful Women and Racism; and MORE. (Some titles subject to change).

Conference fee is \$5 for NOW members, \$7.50 for others. (sliding scale). For information and overnight accommodations, contact ADA (evenings) - 947-2537; ISA (days) - 945-7639; or JO, 989-3306 (answering machine, but "warning - a real person may answer!")

MAINE PUBLIC RADIO & TV REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT AROOSTOOK

This year, for the first time, Maine Public Broadcasting Network's fall "reception tours" to meet their Canadian listeners and viewers will include a visit to the County. Barbara Beers, Bernie Roscetti, Mary Lou Colbath (MPBN TV) and Les Myers and Charles Beck (MPBN Radio) will be joined by MPBN's General Manager Ed Winchester. They will be at the Kelly Commons on the University of Maine/Presque Isle campus. This is an important opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

MPBN has a history of homophobia: (1) refusing to air the play, "Men With the Pink Triangle", a WGBH/Boston production, claiming that the "quality was not up to par". The play is the story of a gayman's experiences in a Nazi concentration camp; (2) equating gays and the Ku Klux Klan, when Mary Lou Colbath refused to accept a donation of OUR PAPER on membership drive night, saying that "the next thing you know, the Ellsworth Klan will want to give away THEIR paper!"; (3) according to a conversation with Tom Post of the National Gay News Radio Network (NGN Radio), MPBN's Les Myers did not want to subscribe to NGN (numerous public radio stations do) because people in Maine are not interested in what happens outside of Maine.(!)

MPBN staff needs to be questioned in person about their blatantly homophobic attitudes. Your attendance at UMPI Thursday, October 10, 7:30pm, is urged. They'll be serving coffee, tea, and cookies!

PARTIES and DANCES

HALLOWE'EN

Northern Lambda Nord's annual Hallowe'en Party is Saturday, November 2. Prizes will be awarded this year for costumes: First prize for the best costume is a \$20 gift certificate from the Jade Palace Restaurant in Caribou. First prize for the most original costume is a \$10 gift certificate from Epstein's Men's and Women's Clothiers in Presque Isle. NLN members' door donation is \$2; guests are \$6 (US and Canadian funds at par). Bring your own beverage. Bring a friend. If you haven't renewed your Lambda membership by then, you may do it at the door.

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MONCTON DANCES

GLM (Gaies et Lesbiennes de Moncton/Gays and Lesbians of Moncton) will be having dances at the East Riverview Recreation Association Hall on Runnymede Street, Riverview, from 9pm-1am. Dates are: Saturday, October 5 and 19; Friday, November 1 (Hallowe'en costume party) and Friday, November 15.

FREDERICTON DANCES

FLAG (Fredericton Lesbians and Gays) holds their dances at the Kinsmen Centre, School Street, Nashwaaksis (North Fredericton): Fridays, October 11 and 25, and November 22. Admission is \$4, or \$2 with a valid NLN membership card. Dances are from 9pm-1am, cash bar.

OTHER NEWSAMHC PLANS WORKSHOP ON HOMOSEXUALITY

The Autumn-Winter Community Education Calendar of the Aroostook Mental Health Center includes, for the first time, a workshop entitled, "Homosexuality: Missing Facts in a Growing Population". The workshop is listed as running for two consecutive Wednesdays in October, and it is free. The instructors are Michelle Bittrich, AMHC Community Support Worker, and Mary Ellen Sartoris. When inquiring about the location of the workshop (that item was not included in the calendar), this editor was informed that the workshop had been cancelled and would be re-scheduled for another time, perhaps late October or November. If information is received in time, it will be noted in the November issue of *Communiqué*.

Our Paper

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LESBIANS IN COURT - A LEGAL UPDATE

Two cases involving lesbians in Maine are included in the Maine Civil Liberties Union's list of their 1985 Legal Docket.

SOLMITZ v. MSAD #59 - High School teacher David Solmitz organized a "Tolerance Day" program for students consisting of a panel of persons from diverse ethnic, social, and religious backgrounds. The purpose of the panel was to promote tolerance for all persons regardless of their background. A lesbian, Dale McCormick, was to be one member of the panel. Reacting to calls by a group of angry parents, the local school board cancelled the panel due to the inclusion of the lesbian speaker. The MCLU took the case through its cooperating attorney Jed Davis to defend important First Amendment principles. In a recent decision, the Maine Supreme Court upheld the action of the school board, citing the possibility of violence if the panel was allowed to take place and also affirming the board's control of school curriculum. The MCLU Legal Panel has decided not to appeal the decision to the US Supreme Court.

MATTHEWS v. MARSH - Diane Matthews was dismissed from the ROTC program at the University of Maine at Orono because she told her commanding officer that she is a lesbian. US Magistrate Brock Hornby ruled that the Army's policy violated Matthews' free speech right and ordered that she be reinstated. During the Army's appeal to the First Circuit, it sought to introduce new evidence relating to alleged homosexual

activity by Matthews. The First Circuit then remanded the case to the Magistrate for rehearing in light of the new evidence. Discovery on the case is to be completed by January 1986 and Matthews must exhaust her administrative remedies in Washington. Attorney Michael Asen says a new trial will take place sometime next year.

NOUVELLES EN BREF - NEWS BRIEFS

- LESBIAN MOTHERS CORRESPONDENCE CLUB - A directory of lesbian mothers who want to network through correspondence. Contact Lianne Carlin, POB 861, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940.
- GAY NEWS INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK - national's only multi-user computer service designed specifically for use by lesbians, gay women and gaymen. GNIC Network, POB 115, Woodbury, New York 11797, 516/351-1363.
- TROIS GIRAFES HOMOSEXUELLES - Depuis la mort de la seule girafe femelle du zoo de Taipei, Taiwan, il y a quatre ans, trois de mâle de l'établissement, souffrant de solitude, sont devenus homosexuels. Le directeur du zoo, M. Chen Pao-Chung, a fait a savoir à l'AFP que l'absence de femelle pourrait avoir incité les trois girafes, de cinq à dix ans, à adopter des comportements homosexuels. Le zoo va acquérir dix girafes femelles au début de l'année prochaine, a précisé M. Chen. (*Journal du Québec*)
- THREE HOMOSEXUAL GIRAFFES - Since the death of the only female giraffe in the Taipei, Taiwan zoo four years ago, three of the males, suffering from solitude, have become homosexuals. Mr. Chen Pao-Chung, the zoo's director, announced to the AFP news service that the lack of females might have caused the three giraffes, between five and ten years old, to take on homosexual behavior. Mr. Chen explained that the zoo will acquire ten female giraffes at the beginning of next year. (*Journal du Québec*)
- ARE YOU OVER 55? - Research in our community has indicated a preference by lesbians and gaymen for retirement housing and long-term care facilities which are homosexually-oriented. A survey nationwide is now being conducted to elicit more detailed and accurate information concerning interests. Gaymen and lesbians who will be at least 55 years old by the end of the current calendar year are needed to complete an anonymous, self-administered questionnaire which asks for demographic data as well as opinions in regard to retirement housing options and preferences. Results will be compiled and made available to gay and lesbian organizations interested in developing retirement facilities for older lesbians and gaymen. Dr. A.J.Lucco, Fellow in Geriatric Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine is conducting the survey. If you qualify and are willing to participate, please contact: A.J.Lucco, M.D., The Beacham Center, 5200 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21224.

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- ★ **NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK:** Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA: Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégai, 207/498-2088, Wednesdays/mercredi, 7-9pm (Eastern time/heure de l'est)
- **FREDERICTON:** Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG), POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2 - FLAGline, 506/457-2156
- **ORONO:** Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine 04469 - they meet Sundays, 7pm, South Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union
- **BANGOR:** Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition (BAGLS), POB 1805, 04401 - meets every other Monday, 7:30pm, 126 Union Street (Unitarian Church)
- **BANGOR:** INTERWEAVE, POB 8008, 04401 - Pot-luck suppers on the first & third Saturdays, 6pm, 126 Union Street (Unitarian Church)
- **QUEBEC:** Centre homophile d'aide et de libération (CHAL), 175, Prince-Edouard, G1K 2M2, 418/523-4997
- **QUEBEC:** Groupe gai de l'Université Laval (GGUL) et Groupe des femmes gaies de l'Université Laval (GFGUL), CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire, Ste-Foy, G1K7P4
- **SAINT JOHN:** Lesbian and Gay Organization in Saint John (LAGO/SJ), POB 6496, Station A, E2L 4R9 - Gayline, 506/633-1256
- **MONCTON:** Gais et lesbiennes de Moncton/Gays and Lesbians of Moncton (GLM), CP/POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0
- **LEWISTON:** Central Maine Gay/Lesbian Awareness Coalition, POB 7917, 04240
- **PORTLAND:** Gay People's Alliance, University of Southern Maine, 92 Bedford Street, 04102, 207/780-4085
- **PORTLAND:** Harbor Masters, Inc., leather-levi group, POB 4044, 04104
- **HALIFAX:** Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE), Box 3611, South Postal Station, B3J 3K6, 902/429-6969
- **NEWFOUNDLAND:** Gay Association in Newfoundland (GAIN), Box 1364, Station C, St. John's, A1C 5N5
- **MONTREAL:** Télégai, 514/933-2395
- **ARCHIVES FOR THE PROTECTION OF GAY HISTORY AND LITERATURE:** Box 6368, Station A, Saint John, New Brunswick E2L 4R8
- **OUR PAPER:** A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine - monthly newspaper; \$12 for one year subscription, POB 10744, Portland 04104
- **MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE:** POB 108, Yarmouth 04096
- **AIDS information SIDA**
- **AIDS-Line,** information and referral service, 207/775-1267
- **GAY HEALTH ACTION COMMITTEE,** POB 10723, Portland 04104
- **MacAIDS,** the Metro Area Committee on AIDS, POB 1013, Halifax, B3J:2X1

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